Stopping of the export of handlooms products from India by the U.S. Government

1056. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Government has blocked exports of handloom products, from India on the plea that these were stitched on machines; if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the U.S. authorities and with what results;

(b) whether the issue was settled earlier in 1985, if so, what are the reasons for which the U.S. authorities are creating problems for Indian exporters and what is the value of goods blocked;

(c) whether Government had called a meeting of the exporters of handloom products; if so, what was the outcome thereof and whether a long term plan has been drawn up for export of these items; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that flow of exports in this sector is not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) The U.S. Government had recently held-up certain handloom consignments exported from India on the ground that these had 100 per cent machine stitching. This issue was raised by the U.S. Government in 1985 and was settled at that time to the satisfaction of the Government of India. Since the present stand of the U.S. Government was not acceptable to the Government of India, the Government of India requested the U.S. Government to allow quota free access to the handloom made-up goods as per the Agreement. Consultations were also held between the two Governments. Final response from the U.S. Government has not come so far.

In the mean while, the Government of India has taken necessary steps to get all the held up consignments and similar future consignments cleared. Exporters have been advised to maintain the trade flow. Exports of handloom made-up consignments can, therefore, continue to the U.S.A.

1057. [*Transferred to the 5th May*, 1989].

Smuggling of arms by terrorist group

1058. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of smuggled arms were found in posesion of the terrorist group which was recently apprehended in the border village of Ferozepur district of Punjab;

(b) how many terrorists and infiltrators have been killed in the border areas of Punjab during the last three years; and

(c) whether the fencing work which was started some time back has been completed in the border areas so as to curb the infiltration by the terrorists and intruders and also smuggling of weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) According to information furnished by the CPWD, which is executing the work, as on 15-4-89 fencing has been completed in a stretch of 105.05 Kms. in the Punjab Sector and 25.70 Kms. in the Rajasthan sector. The entire work is expected to be completed by May 15, 1989.

Visa regulations Governing visitors from Bangladesh

1059. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to plug the loopholes in the visa regulations